whenever a drug cosmetic is found to be harmful or irrational.

Shortage of Staff in Primary Health Centres of Kokrajhar, Assam

1200. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of doctors, pharmacists and nurses in the Primary Health Centres of Kokrajhar District of Assam as reported in the Assam Tribune of 13th September, 1990; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any corrective steps to remedy this state of affairs, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MNISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha

Amendment to the Mental Health Act

1202. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that a workshop on 'Current Trends in Mental Health" was organised in Jaipur if so, the details of recommendations made therein,

(b) whether the Indian Phychiatric Society has urged the Central Government to amend the Mental Health Act before its implementation in the country: and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Act in accordance with the recommendations; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Literacy drive in the Villages

1203 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDRAE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) the total number of villages in each State and Union Territory which claim 100 per cent Illiteracy; their percentage of the total villages and their population; and

(b) what targets are contemplated to be achieved during the Eighth Plan period in regard to literacy drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to 80 million illiterate adults in the 15—35 age-group by 1990—95 The target for the 8th Five Year Plan is 65 million including the 7th Plan backlog of about 15 million (approx).

2 A mass campaign for the National Literacy Mission was launched at the national level on 5 5 1988. Similar campaigns have also been launched at the State/UT and District levels in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990 91. The objective of launching of such mass campaigns is to enlist the involvement and support of all sections of the society for the National Literacy Mission on the one hand and to take up area-specific and time-specific plans for total eradication of illiteracy on the other The States/UTs which have launched such mass campaigns for total literacy for the whole State/selected districts/blocks are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa; Pondicherry, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Several interesting results have already been obtained and more such results are expected in future as a result of such mass campaigns for total literacy

Kottayam city in Kerala became fully literate within 100 das (April—June, 1990) followed by Ernakulam district which was declared as the first fully literate district in the country on 4-2-1990 The mass campaigns for total literacy which have been launched in about 25 selected districts thereafter are making good progress and the results of such campaigns will be made known by the close of the 1990-91 as well as the beginning of 1991-92. More districts are also coming forward to launch mass campaigns for total literacy from time to time Apart from providing positive support and help to these districts willing to launch campaigns for total literacy, steps are being taken to provide facilities of post-literacy & continuing education so that the neo-literates do not relapse into illiteracy

3 It is hoped that a large number of villages in the States/districts covered by mass campaigns would have achieved total literacy immediate after the campaigns are over

New Contraceptive Vaccine

1204 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE·
SHRI MOHENDRA PRASAD)·

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether a birth control vaccine has been recently developed by the National Institute of Immunology;

(b) if so, the salient feature about its effectiveness in controlling births and side-effects, if any; and

(c) by when it would be permitted for commercial manufacture and use?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN)· (a) Attempts are being made to develop contraceptive vaccines at National Institute of Immunology (NII)

(b) The female contraceptive vaccine after due research, experi- vaccine produces anti-bodies against the pregnancy hormone hCG. The vaccine after due research, experimental work and toxicology studies went through Phase-I clinical trials in 5 centres in India and 4 centres abroad The results of Phase-I clinical trials are satisfactory and no significant side effects have been indicated. Phase-II clinical trials have been recently initiated

Another vaccine induces anti-bodies against LHRH, a hormone common to both males females. The vaccine is already in Phase-I/Phase-II clinical trials in patients of carcinoma of the prostrate in 2 centres in India and 2 centres abroad. The vaccine is potentially usable for fertility control as well The Drugs Controller of India has recently given clearance for clinical trials from this aspect in post-partum women with the objective of extending the period of lactational amennorrhea and inter-child interval Trials will be conducted in 3 centres in India

(c) The vaccines have to undergo rigorous Phase-II and Phase-III human clinical trials Programme introduction and commercial manufacture will depend on the result of these trials.

Air Travel in India—Problems and Solutions

1205 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE,
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state·

(a) whether a panel discussion-cum-open house session on Air Travel in India—Problem and Solutions was held at Madras on September 21, 1990;

(b) if so, what specific issues were raised and observations and suggges- made therein; and